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CONFIDENTIAL

UNIT OF RESEARCH

Atallah Kappas, M.D.
Fairchild Professor and
Vice President
The Rockefeller University
Hospital
1230 York Avenue
New York, New York 10021-6399

Dear Doctor Kappas:

I am responding to your letter of August 20th, following your request of an evaluation of Dr. Ronald Crystal, who has been suggested as a candidate to head a clinical investigative group at the Rockefeller University.

I have known Dr. Crystal for several years and am quite familiar with his scientific accomplishments. Dr. Crystal continues to be acknowledged as a leading investigator in the field of pulmonary research and has maintained a very basic approach to studies of pulmonary inflammatory diseases. Dr. Crystal is one of the few individuals who has been able to meld a very basic scientific approach with clinical investigative studies. His recognition of activated T cells in lavage fluids obtained from the lungs of patients with sarcoid and the demonstration that these cells were producing lymphocyte activation products was an example of the bringing together of basic science with clinical investigation. His more recent studies dealing with the production from alveolar macrophages of factors which affect collagen synthesis has a direct bearing on mechanisms relevant to pulmonary interstitial fibrotic processes. In all of his scientific studies, Dr. Crystal has clearly been the scientific leader and has trained a substantial number of young pulmonary investigators who hold academic appointments around the country. Two examples of individuals trained by him are Dr. Gary Hunninghake, Chief of the Pulmonary Service at the University of Iowa Hospitals, and Dr. James Gadek, Chief of the Pulmonary Service at the Ohio State University Hospital. Nationally and internationally, Dr. Crystal is recognized as a leading expert in the field of pulmonary research and he is very often invited to give state-of-the-art lectures and to organize symposia related to pulmonary diseases.

Dr. Crystal's experience over the years in heading the group at the National Heart, Lung and Blood institute has demonstrated his effectiveness as an administrator and his ability to lead young scientists in a common direction of biomedical research. Dr. Crystal is a gregarious and respected scientist who has a world-wide recognition for his important scientific accomplishments.

I can only speak with the utmost praise of Dr. Crystal and his scientific accomplishments. The single concern I would have is the fact that increasingly over the past several years it has been my impression that Dr. Crystal has devoted substantial amounts of his time to the international travel circuit. I believe he also spends some of his time appearing as an expert witness in medico-legal cases. I am not familiar with how much time Ron spends away from his office and laboratory but I feel this is an area that requires some exploration and that, if he were to assume the position at Rockefeller, he might have to ease off on some of his travels in order to tend to the new challenges of a position at the Rockefeller University. I believe the concern about time spent away from the office and laboratory is something that can be discussed openly with Ron and the issue addressed in a very straightforward manner. If Ron is your choice for this position, and if he decides to dedicate himself to such an assignment, I have no question that he would perform in an exemplary manner.

I hope this information is of use to you.

Sincerely,



Peter A. Ward, M.D.
Professor and Chairman

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